



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2006

FORMAL WELCOME HOME CEREMONY FOR TWO CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. – Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces a formal welcome home ceremony for more than 50 soldiers from Company B and Detachment 1, Company D, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment of Windsor Locks, who were mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**The event will be held Saturday, March 4, 2006 at the Army Aviation
Support Facility in Windsor Locks at 1:00 p.m.**

Both units were mobilized in July 2004 and left Connecticut for Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, on September 9, 2004. On December 31, 2004 the units departed Ft. Sill and arrived in Kuwait on January 1, 2005, processed through and went forward into Iraq.

The units arrived back in Connecticut on November 23, 2005 just in time for Thanksgiving.

During their deployment Company B, 189th Aviation Regiment averaged more than 500 flight hours per month, flying six to seven aircraft each day. The unit amassed more than 5,700 combat flight hours and completed more than 850 combat missions while transporting 18,900 passengers and more than 972,000 pounds of cargo.

(MORE)

CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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Detachment 1, Company D, 189th Aviation Regiment performed more than 150 aircraft inspections that ranged anywhere from 100-120 hours long. That is approximately one inspection every other day. The unit replaced more than 40 engines and windows. Replaced and maintained more than 80 main rotor blades and more than 20 tail rotor blades. The unit also repaired the high frequency radios, recovered eight aircraft for maintenance related issues and accomplished a number of periodic maintenance inspections that aided in keeping many of the aircraft flying.

“The outstanding performance by both units are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service reflects great credit upon the unit, the Connecticut Army National Guard and the United States Army,” said Martin.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment is commanded by Maj. Mark Strout of Colchester, Conn., and Detachment 1, Company D, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment is commanded by Chief Warrant Officer Kurt Suitor of Tolland, Conn.

This event is open to the media.

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Directions: I-91 from Hartford to Exit 40 (Bradley Connector), then take 2nd exit (Route 75), **RIGHT** at the end of the exit. Follow Route 75 north to the DB Mart/Valero Service Station light. At that light, take a **LEFT**. Come to stop sign and take a **RIGHT**. Follow the airport perimeter road for approximately ½ mile to the AASF facility.

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